

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SHARING A SHARED RESOURCE
ACROSS LOGICAL PARTITIONS OR SYSTEMS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for sharing a resource (such as a modem or virtual
5 private network) allow virtualizing the shared resource in a simple and efficient manner
that allows both accepting and initiating virtual or physical connections through the
shared resource across logical partitions or systems. An L2TP tunnel is established
between the server that owns the shared resource and the client that desires to use the
shared resource. Messages are defined that allow the client to initiate an outgoing
10 connection through the shared resource, and that allow the client to accept an incoming
connection received from the shared resource. Once the connection is made, the client
and ultimate destination communicate through the shared resource via point-to-point
communications.